

Lent Day 14: Tuesday, March 7

Job 8:7

MULTIPLY IN THE PROCESS

Job 8:7 (NIV)...*Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.*

In Job 8:7, Job has lost his livelihood, all his children and now is suffering physically. His friends endeavor to comfort him and offer explanations to help. Today's verse is part of the argument delivered by Job's friend Bildad. After hearing Job's perspective, Bildad calls Job a windbag. He asserts if Job were pure and upright, God would answer. Then Bildad states today's verse – Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be (Job 8:7 NIV). Wow, what comfort from a friend when you're down???

Bildad assumes that his perspective of Job's circumstances is complete. He has no knowledge of activities at play in the spiritual realm. Today's text reveals a profound inaccuracy of Bildad that hides in the truth of his statement. Let's look at the NKJV for verse 7 - *Though your beginning was small, your latter end would increase abundantly.* This principle is found throughout scripture. Both Old and New Testaments declare and provide examples of small things - seeds, people groups, movements, etc. - growing into great things. The "end" is the key. Small beginning to a great end. Bildad's statement is true. However, Bildad is wrong to conclude that Job's current state is Job's "end." Bildad assumes this snapshot is Job's result and not Job's process.

There may be times when we are in the place of Job where people see our current state and make judgments asserting that's how our story ends. Sometimes we may act like Bildad and self-righteously judge someone without knowledge of all the facts. Sometimes we misinterpret our own seasons, thinking this is the end instead of part of the process. In any case, let's remember that the beginning of great things often starts small. Trust the process.